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Atty. Dkt. No. 017446-0305

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after final amendment
A.A. 10/29/05*

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.-9. (canceled).

10. (Currently Amended) A speech signal decoding apparatus comprising:

a plurality of decoding means for decoding information containing at least a sound source signal, a gain, and filter coefficients from a received bit stream;

identification means for identifying voiced speech and unvoiced speech of a speech signal using the decoded information, at least the unvoiced speech containing a background noise;

classification means for classifying unvoiced speech in accordance with the decoded information;

said smoothing means performs smoothing processing in accordance with a classification result of said classification means for at least one of the decoded gain and the decoded filter coefficients in the unvoiced speech identified by said identification means.

~~smoothing means for performing smoothing processing based on the decoded information for at least either one of the decoded gain and the decoded filter coefficients in the speech identified by said identification means in order to provide enhanced decoding quality for at least the unvoiced speech with the background noise;~~

means for obtaining an excitation signal by multiplying the decoded sound source signal by the decoded gain after performing the smoothing processing; and

means for decoding the speech signal by driving a filter having the decoded filter coefficients by the excitation signal obtained from the means for obtaining.